

Claims 11-25 are pending herein. Applicants have canceled claims 1-10 without prejudice or disclaimer in favor of new claims 11-25. No new matter has been added.

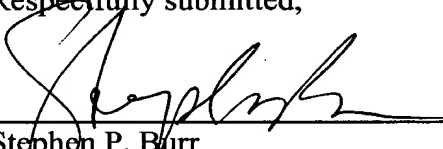
Applicants believe the case is now in condition for examination.

If the Examiner believes that contact with applicants' attorney would be advantageous toward the disposition of this case, he is herein requested to call applicants' attorney at the phone number noted below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1446.

June 15, 2001  
Date

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Changes made to page 1, line 1, are as follows:

~~SPECIFICATION~~ TITLE OF THE INVENTION

Changes made to page 1, lines 6-16, are as follows:

~~TECHNICAL FIELD~~ FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a vibration damping rubber member and a process of producing the same, and more particularly to a vibration damping rubber member capable of exhibiting low dynamic stiffness and high vibration damping effect, and a process suitable for producing such a vibration damping rubber member. The present invention is also concerned with a process of producing a vibration damping rubber member having an increased vibration damping effect, so as to reduce its dynamic/static ratio of spring constant for thereby reducing the dynamic stiffness.

Changes made to page 1, lines 18-25, are as follows:

~~BACKGROUND ART~~ DISCUSSION OF THE RELATED ART

As well known, a vibration damping rubber member interposed between two members in a vibration transmitting system so as to connect the two members in a vibration damping fashion has been widely used in various fields. For instance, the vibration damping rubber member is used on automotive vehicles, as engine mounts, body mounts, member mounts, suspension bushings, and so on.

Changes made to page 5, lines 10-17, are as follows:

~~DISCLOSURE~~SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention was made in view of the background art described above. It is a first object of this invention to provide a vibration damping rubber member which is capable of exhibiting both a low degree of dynamic spring stiffness and a high vibration damping effect and which can be economically and easily produced, and a process suitable for producing such a vibration damping rubber member.

Changes made to page 15, line 14, to page 16, line 1 are as follows:

~~BEST MODE FOR CARRYING OUT~~DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF  
THE INVENTION

The vibration damping rubber member according to the present invention as described above is formed using a rubber composition consisting of a rubber material A for reducing the dynamic spring stiffness ~~for~~ of the damping rubber and a rubber composition B for increasing the damping effect. Described in detail, an unvulcanized mass of the rubber material A and an unvulcanized mass of the rubber material B are initially uniformly kneaded or mixed together, such that the unvulcanized rubber material B is dispersed in the form of fine particles in the unvulcanized rubber material A. Then, the rubber material B is vulcanized, and the rubber material A is subsequently vulcanized, so that the vibration damping rubber member consisting of the vulcanized rubber materials A and B is formed. This is a major feature of the present invention.